

PICKERING

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Pickering Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1904.

In the year ending Dec. 31st, 1903, the population of the District was estimated to be 3,491, and, although the Deathrate is certainly above the average—the Birthrate being exactly the same as in 1903—an increase in the number of houses occupied will most probably give the same population as in the previous year, therefore I have no reason to think that any change either of an increase or decrease has taken place.

A marked increase in the average of people in the Workhouse has prevailed during the past year. The average for the year 1904 being only a fraction under 50, in the year 1903 the average was 46.

The number of Births registered in the District during the year 1904 is 102, exactly the same number as in the previous year, showing a birthrate of 29·0 per thousand.

Only 2 Births took place in the Workhouse during the year, one less than in either of the two preceding years.

The number of Deaths registered in the District during the past year is 71, eight more than in the year 1903, namely: 38 males and 33 females. Eight Deaths took place in the Workhouse, 3 of whom did not belong to the District, showing a deathrate for the whole number of 20·0 per thousand, an increase of 2·0 per thousand of the year 1903, and after deducting the number of those belonging to other Districts a deathrate of 19·4.

Two Deaths from zymotic diseases occurred in the District during the past year, one from scarlet fever and one from diphtheria, showing a deathrate of 0·5 per thousand.

Sixteen Deaths took place in children under one year, an increase of 5 of the previous year, showing a deathrate of 4·8 per thousand, an increase of 2·0 per thousand.

Twenty-four Deaths took place in people of 65 years and upwards—six of these died in the Workhouse—showing a Deathrate of the whole number of 6·8 per thousand, a slight increase of the previous year.

The respective ages of the Deaths which took place in the Workhouse are—

One at 2 years.	One at 74 years.
One at 48 years.	One at 75 years.
Two at 68 years.	One at 84 years.
One at 72 years.	

Showing an average deathrate for the whole number of 61·3.

Notifications of 33 cases of infectious diseases have been received during the past year, namely :—

Scarlet Fever	29
Diphtheria	2
Erysipelas	2
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	33

With the exception of the months of January, February, March, April and July, Scarlet Fever prevailed more or less during the year, more especially during the month of October, when eleven cases were notified.

The two cases of Diphtheria took place, one in January and the other in November. By using every precaution the disease was prevented from spreading. Unfortunately one of the cases proved fatal after 17 days.

In Table IV. you will find the causes of Death classified as under :—

Influenza	2	Diarrhœa & Sickness	2
Heart Disease	11	Non-closure of Heart	2
Apoplexy	1	Dilatation of Stomach	1
Senile Decay	9	Acute Nephritis	1
Premature Birth	4	General Tuberculosis	3
Chronic Rheumatism	1	Accidentally Drowned	1
Chronic Disease of Kidneys	1	Cerebral Effusion	2
Abscess of Stomach	1	Pertussis	4
Chronic Pancreatitis	1	Carcinoma	1
Bronchitis	6	Cynanche Parotidœa	1
Puerperal Eclampsia	1	Asthma	1
Marasmus	2	Scarlet Fever	1
Cancer of Rectum & Liver	1	Diphtheria	1
Dentition	3	Convulsions	1
Suicide by Hanging	1	Cerebro Spinal Schlerosis	1
Brights Disease	1	Tabes Mesenterica	1
Malignant Stricture of Œsophagus	1		<hr/>

Heart Disease is the first on the list amongst the causes of Death, then senile decay. Affections of the Respiratory Organs, which have held the first place for several years, now coming third.

Although nearly 30 cases of Scarlet Fever took place during the year, they were spread over seven months, so that there never was any necessity to close the Elementary Schools. In nearly every case the fever was in a mild form.

House accommodation for the working classes "no complaint."

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

A great part of the mains of the town within the last fifteen years have been relaid with sanitary pipes.

There are three outlets for the main Drains—a central, East and West.

The five outlets in the central part of the town empty into the stream where no change has taken place since the drains were first made many years before I became Medical Officer of Health.

The drain at the East side of the town empties into an open sewer which runs for several miles before entering the stream from Thornton Dale immediately before it runs into the river Derwent.

In the month of June complaint was made concerning the sewerage entering the open sewer on the West side of the Carr Lane at Keld Head. Acting upon my suggestion Joseph Bradley, Esq., of Ebberston Hall, an expert, was requested to provide a means for purifying the sewerage before it entered the flow of water from the springhead. This has been done and is now being carried out and I have every reason to believe will fulfil all that is required.

In September I called the attention of the Council to the unsatisfactory condition of the outlets of the main drains in the centre of the town. Improvements have been made, especially at the outlet from the Hungate drain, and to a less degree at the one above the Stone Bridge and the one from the Market Place. During the present year I shall suggest that further improvements may be carried out.

The chief system in vogue in the disposal of the excrement is the old method of earth closet and ashpit. During the last few years, upon my advice, nearly the whole of the ashpits which were open cesspools have been covered in, the excrement mixed with dry ashes and house refuse to be carted away several times during the year.

Having no Infectious Hospital all cases of infectious diseases are treated in the homes of the patients. On more than one occasion the Councils of the Urban and Rural Districts have considered the need of an Isolation Hospital, but nothing has been done as yet.

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT.

I have visited the several Workshops and Bakehouses in the District and find the requirements of the Act to be duly carried out.

As the Council are at the present time considering the need upon my advice of providing a Public Slaughterhouse for the District, it is not necessary for me to say more than I hope my recommendation may be carried out,

The water supply from the springhead at Keld Head is good and abundant.

The Lodging Houses are clean and in good order.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. W. ROBERTSON,

M. O. H.

FEB. 1ST, 1905.